

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. Canceled.

2. (New) An amusement device for conveying a rider comprising:

a narrow inlet slide section having opposite sidewalls defining a first narrow, downhill path from a high elevation at a first end portion thereof to a lower elevation at a second end portion thereof, the inlet slide section having a rider entrance at its first end portion at the high elevation; and

an elongated exit slide having a slide surface separate and distinct from the inlet slide section from a high elevation at a first end portion of the exit slide to a lower elevation and rider exit at a second end portion thereof, the exit slide having a rider entrance opening, the exit slide being much wider than the narrow inlet slide section, the inlet slide section second end portion communicating through the exit slide entrance opening, the inlet slide section and exit slide being constructed and arranged relatively such that a rider is introduced at an angle to the length of the exit slide and through the exit slide entrance opening from the narrow inlet slide section onto the wider exit slide for sliding of the rider along an upward extending portion of the exit slide for deceleration of the rider followed by travel of the rider downward along the exit slide.

3. (New) The device defined in Claim 2, in which the inlet slide section is curved gradually downward from its first end portion to a more steeply inclined central section for acceleration of a rider, and the inlet slide section having a lower portion adjacent to the second end portion which is curved oppositely from the upper portion of the inlet slide section.

4. (New) The device defined in Claim 2, in which the second end portion of the inlet slide at the low elevation is approximately horizontal, and in which the exit slide at the

entrance opening is approximately horizontal and extends coextensively with the inlet slide section.

5. (New) The device defined in Claim 2, in which the inlet slide section is angled relative to the length of the exit slide and arranged such that a rider is introduced onto the exit slide at a location between the exit slide first and second end portions and toward the first end portion for allowing twists and turns of a rider after being propelled out of the narrow inlet slide section, through the exit slide entrance opening and onto the wider exit slide.

6. (New) The device defined in Claim 2, in which at least an upper portion of the inlet slide section is formed as a flume and carries a substantial volume of water introduced at the entrance thereof.

7. (New) The device defined in Claim 6, in which the inlet slide includes drains between its first and second end portions for discharge of water through the inlet slide section.

8. (New) The device defined in Claim 7, in which the drains include rollers extending transversely of the inlet slide section and spaced apart for flow of water therebetween.

9. (New) The device defined in Claim 2, in which the exit slide includes a hill section, located toward the second end portion from the entrance opening, the hill section having a maximum elevation much lower than the elevation of the first end portion of the exit slide.

10. (New) An amusement device for conveying a rider comprising:

an elongated exit slide having opposite sidewalls defining a path along its length from a high elevation at a first end portion thereof to a lower elevation and rider exit at a second portion thereof, the exit slide having a rider entrance opening; and

inlet means for introducing a rider through the entrance opening of the exit slide at an angle to the length of the exit slide onto an upward extending portion of the exit slide for deceleration of the rider followed by travel of the rider along the path of the exit slide, the inlet means being much narrower than the exit slide and being separate and distinct therefrom, but the inlet means having a surface adjacent to the rider opening coextensive with the exit slide.

11. (New) The device defined in Claim 10, in which the inlet means includes a downhill inlet slide section.

12. (New) The device defined in Claim 10, in which the inlet means introduces a rider approximately horizontally onto the exit slide, and in which the exit slide is approximately horizontal at the entrance opening.

13. (New) The device defined in Claim 10, in which the inlet means includes a mechanical acceleration component.